WEB-BASED COLLABORATION IN E-LEARNING

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INTRODUCTION:

Cloud computing and Web collaboration are two major concepts that underlie new and innovative developments in education. The term cloud computing describes the abstraction of web based computers, resources, and services that developers can employ web based systems. The concept of cloud collaboration brings together new advances in cloud computing and collaboration that are becoming more and more necessary in firms operating in an increasingly globalised world.

The emergence of cloud networks, the lowered cost of computing, have helped spur some of the popularity of collaborative tools and software's for creating and publishing and work group support.   Collaborative is a real-time or near real time communication between two or more than two. Here, (wiki, blog) as two of the most popularity tools are used to collaborate in the cloud computing that could be used to support e-learning directly or which indirectly.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

(Minocha & Roberts, 2008)   This study showed the role of two technologies — wikis and blogs — in teaching and learning. Case studies of two courses were provided at the Open University, UK and empirical evidence of students' experiences, perceptions, and expectations on these courses. The research reported in this paper aims to provide guidance to course designers and educators for choosing tools, particularly wikis and blogs, for their contexts and for creating value and generating a positive student experience to engender student satisfaction and retention.

(Lee & Young, 2011) in their article describes findings from an investigation of student learning in a teacher education course using collaborative Web 2.0 technologies. Pre-service teachers in an interdisciplinary English language arts/social studies methods course completed a selection of activities using a course blog and a separate course wiki. The research focused on the following broadly conceived questions: How do pre-service teachers use collaborative web-based technologies in a methods course? To what extent does the use of collaborative web-based technologies affect the preparation of pre-service teachers? Students experienced mixed levels of success using the blog and wiki illustrating the need for careful consideration and further investigation when using Web 2.0 technologies.

(Avci & Askar, 2012) The purpose of this study was to examine the use of blogs and wikis as constructive tools in the computer courses of prospective teachers and compare them with respect to perceived usefulness, perceived ease of use, intention, self efficacy, and anxiety..

findings showed that students were positive to blog and wiki usage in the teaching-learning process. However they found wiki more useful.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To investigate the collaboration in e-learning via Wikis and blogs.
2. To determine the merit and demerit of web-based Wikis and blogs.
3. To illustrate some tools that is used to create web-based Wikis and blogs.

WEB BASED-E-LEARNING:

COLLABORATING VIA WIKI:

Depend on a document's size, complexity, and project guidelines; there are times to edit the content at the same document at the same time. But the problem here, if two users edit the same section of text, it becomes awkward to decide which a user edits to apply. One of majority used web based for collaborating in the clouds is the wiki. A Wikis is one such service that exemplifies a Web tool or service enabling collaborative work and cloud computing. Wikis are tools for building websites without the need for knowledge of HTML and with the option of continuous collaboration. The best known wiki is Wikipedia.

Using wiki software, users can edit share content. After the edit is saved, the new content is displayed on the web. Relying on the wiki software, changes to text may have to first be accepted by a page moderator, or the software may track edited versions of the content to make it easy to fall back to pervious content if users choose to discard a change or content editions.

Many wikis are public and accessible to all users on the web, and little, however, support private content, which is well suited for company based internal messaging and documents.

The merits of using wiki for shared document include the following:
- Any member of the team can add or edit content.
- The edits of wiki content are immediate
- Most users easily and quickly learn how to edit content within the content.
- Team members who edit the content can reside anywhere

The demerits of using wiki for shared document include the following:
- Because any member can edit the content, wikis sometimes contain errors.
- Public wikis are often targets of hacking and spam
- The wikis free following format may lead to disorganized content
- Users are often suspicious of wiki content validity and accuracy.

Getting started with a Wiki is very easy. To begin, you select the cloud-based host at which your wiki will reside. Your selection of a Wiki site may include such factors as content versioning, content moderator approval, support for private content, and so on. A Wikia (formerly Wikicities) is a famous and free web hosting service and a wiki farm for wikis. Mostly free of charge for readers and editors, deriving most of its income from advertising, and

publishes all user-provided text under copyleft licenses. Wikia hosts several hundred thousand wikis using the open-source wiki software MediaWiki. See figure no: 1

Fig. No.1. Getting started with a Wiki

COLLABORATING VIA WEB LOGS (BLOGS):

With the advent of web 2.0, one of the most widely used communication tools is web log, or blog. The Blog is a type of technology that allows virtually anyone, with little or no web development experience, to easily publish content on the web. Blogs can provide one way or two way communications, that is, some users post read only content to blogs; however others allow users to comment on the content. Over the past few years, blogs have become so successful that many newspapers have replaced printed contents with digital blogs.

The merits of using blogs include the following:

• Blog provide a device-independent way for content consumers to access digital content using only a web browser.

• Users can create and publish content to a blog with little or no web development experience.

• Within an organization, intranet-based blogs provide a convenient way to disseminate information.

• Blogs provide an effective way to collect feedback from readers.

 The demerits of using blogs include the following:

• Maintaining a blog take time

• Blogs can be opinion posts as opposed to fact posts

• User's feedback may not always be positive and may require moderation.
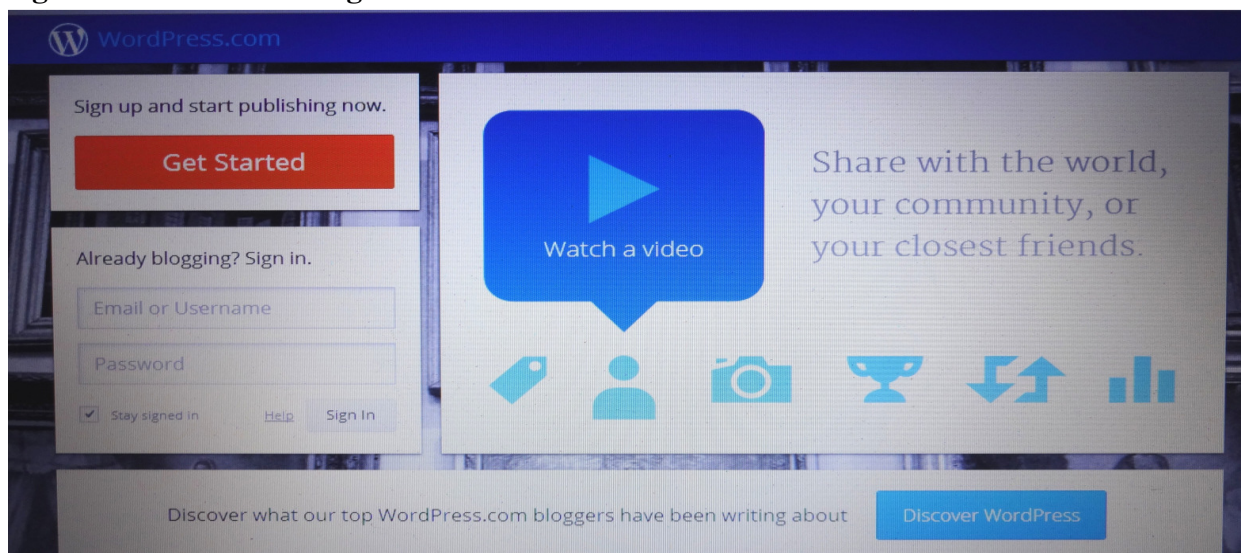
Blogging as a Teaching Tool:

• Feedback for revising the course, change of teaching strategies etc.

• An online course management tool

• A weekly topic is posted

• Post articles

• Students post their thoughts

• Class discussions

• Writing assignments and homework exercises.

• Exchange information

• Posts comments, questions and advice.

• Students post their thoughts on what they are learning.

• Students use the blog as a writing portfolio.

• Students read each other's rough drafts of writing assignments and give feedback.

• Discuss news related to the courses subject.

• Students discuss class activities.

• Online students can get to know each other by reading and commenting on each others blog entries.

• Posts class times, rules governing classes, suggested readings, and exercises etc.

• Provide links to Internet items

• Organize class seminars.

   Creating a blog is very easy. To start, you locate a free blog hosting provider within the cloud, such as word press. After you sign up, you will access to a text editor, which you use to create your blog.

   Most blogs providers offer a free user account, which is often advertising based. For a monthly fee, providers may eliminate advertisements, allow greater storage capacity, support streaming media such as video, and allow a user domain name. Shown in figure no: 2

Fig. No. 2. Shows how to get started with facilitates of wordPress

CONCLUSION:

 Collaboration in cloud computing is a vast ocean of new advanced technology in education science. The present study discussed that two famous web-based-e-learning (wikis and blogs). The ease and accessibility to create and publish contents lead many users to use wikis and blogs to increase their knowledge.

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